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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,129	06/27/2003	Chih-Fang Peng	10963-US-PA	1634
31561	7590	12/01/2004	EXAMINER	
JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE 7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100 ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2 TAIPEI, 100 TAIWAN			WANG, GEORGE Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,129

Applicant(s)

PENG, CHIH-FANG

Examiner

George Y. Wang

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 12-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b). Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on September 3, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,468, hereinafter "Ejima") in view of Matsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,096,808, hereinafter "Matsuda").

4. As to claim 1, Ejima discloses a liquid crystal panel carrier (fig. 1, ref. 11) comprising a box (fig. 1, ref. 21) where the interior lateral surfaces of the box have a plurality of cannelures (fig. 1, ref. 21A) and a plurality of attaching elements (fig. 1, ref. 22) where the two ends of each attaching element are inserted into the corresponding cannelures on two opposing lateral surfaces to partition the interior of the box into compartments.

However, the reference fails to specifically disclose the partitioning the interior of the box into compartments of various sizes.

Matsuda discloses a liquid crystal panel carrier comprising a box where the compartments are of various sizes (fig. 4, ref. 18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a liquid crystal panel carrier comprising a box where the attaching element partitions the interior of the box into compartments of various sizes since one would be motivated to provide a carrier that does not constitute a hindrance to the substrate panels as they are inserted, removed, or thermally treated (col. 3, lines 48-52). This way, panels are various sizes can properly be fitted in the carrier without any obstruction (col. 3, line 61 – col. 4, line 6).

5. Regarding claims 8-11, Ejima discloses the LC panel carrier as recited above with attaching elements (fig. 1, ref. 22) having protruding edges that constitute insertion slots for accommodating an LC panel and where the box is fabricated using a material harder than the attaching elements (fig. 3, ref. 13), such that the lateral surface of the attaching elements has a plurality of clamping sections (fig. 3, ref. 13).

6. Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima and Matsuda, and in further view of Iwamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,836, hereinafter "Iwamoto").

Ejima, when modified by Matsuda, discloses the LC panel carrier as recited above, however, the references fail to specifically disclose the interior of the box comprising a bottom surface with cannellures with saw-tooth-like profile that matches the profile of the cannellures, and with lateral surfaces comprising a plurality of dovetail grooves and clamping sections.

Iwamoto discloses an LC panel container having an interior bottom surface with cannellures (fig. 1, ref. 40) with saw-tooth-like profile (fig. 1, ref. 42) that matches the profile of the cannellures, and with lateral surfaces comprising a plurality of dovetail grooves and clamping sections (fig. 1, ref. 44, 46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an interior bottom surface with cannellures having a saw-tooth-like profile and having lateral surfaces comprising a plurality of dovetail grooves and clamping sections since one would be motivated to provide a carrier that does not constitute a hindrance to the substrate panels as they are inserted, removed, or thermally treated (Matsuda, col. 3, lines 48-52). This way, panels are various sizes can properly be fitted in the carrier without any obstruction (Matsuda, col. 3, line 61 – col. 4, line 6). Furthermore, such a carrier ultimately provides increased shock protection and security of the panels (col. 1, line 45 – col. 2, line 21).

Conclusion


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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Y. Wang whose telephone number is 571-272-2304. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gw
November 18, 2004


EXAMINER
2004